III. *Part of a Letter from Mr* Ralph Thoresby, *F. R. S. to Dr* Hans Sloane, *S. R. S. concerning ſome* Norman *Coyns found at* York.

I Had ſeveral weeks ago given you an account of ſome old Coyns lately found at *York*, but that I forbore, in hopes to make the account more perfect; which is as follows: Mr *Samuel Buxton*, late Sheriff of that Ancient City, deſigning to Build upon a Piece of Ground he had bought in *High Ouſegate*, had Labourers to remove the Rubbiſh of a former Houſe; which, with about 30 more, was burnt down *April* 3. 1694. In digging below the Foundations of the former Houſe, at a conſiderable depth they diſcovered the more Ancient Foundations of an older Fabrick; very probably unknown to the Builders of the later Houſe. Theſe lower Foundations were very well ſupported at ſeveral Angles with good Oak Piles, ſome of which were ſo firm and ſound, that they were good again for the ſame purpoſe; beſides theſe Piles, there were ſeveral great Timber-trees, that lay athwart, to make the ſtronger Foundation: Betwixt the head of two Piles in this lower Foundation, the Work men found a little decayed *Oak-box*, wherein had been hoarded about 200 or 250 pieces of the *Norman Coyns*; but age and the moiſture of the place had ſo defaced them, that not much above 100 of them could be preſerved: Through the Gentlemans kindneſs (who preſented me with ſome of them) I had the peruſal of about half that number, (the reſt being given away before I heard of them) which proved the nobleſt ſtock that ever I ſaw, or indeed, heard of, of *William the Conquerer*'s Coyns; not above 2 or 3 in the whole Cargo that I ſaw being of any other Prince: Thoſe, tho later in

time, are more rare in value than many of the *Roman* and *Saxon Coyns*: theſe lower foundations alſo very well anſwer the account we have of the *Timber-buildings* in thoſe Ages.

The Coyns are very much alike; the King is repreſented full-faced, with a Crown and Labels, but neither Scepter, Croſs or Star, as in other Moneys of his that I had before; moſt of them are inſcibed *WILLEMV REX*, which ſome have miſtaken for *William the 2d*; but by the declining of the ſtrokes, it appears to be deſign'd for *V*, as I have one with the *S* after the *V* and before *REX*. By this accident there appears greater Variety, than ever was known before, of the *Conqueror*'s Money, thro the kindneſs of Mr *Buxton* and others. I have of theſe ſorts, *WILLEMV REX*. *WILLEMVS REX*. *WILLEMV REX*. *I*. (which is not to be reckoned a Numeral Letter, it being improper to pretend a diſtinction, when there was none of the Name before, but for part of the Letter *A*) *WILEM REX A*. (*Angliæ*.) And for the Reverſe I have that were Coyn'd at *LVNDRE*. (*London*.) *EOFER wick*. (*York*.) *WINC* (*Wincheſter*. *EXETE* (*Exeter*.) *LIN* (*Lincoln*, I preſume, *Lyn-Regis* not being old enough.) *LINCOL* (*Lincoln*.) *DEOTFORND* (*Thetford*.) and *LOYNC* (which I take for *Lorn* or *Lancaſter*. I have only one duplicate, which I preſent to you, and hope you will find it ſafe in the Seal of the Letter; 'tis inſcribed + *WILLEMV REX* I. Reverſe + *DEII. IRD ON LIN*.

V. *Se-*